

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EA-07 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 PM-04
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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
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INFO SOVIET PRESS SUMMARY COLLECTIVE 31
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
USMISSION USUN
USIA WASHDC
CINCPAC
CINCEUR
USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM
DIA WASHDC
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AFB
CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG
CSAF WASHDC//AFINA/SSA
CNO WASHDC//OP-614
DA WASHDC//DAMI-FII
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FOR POLADS

USIA FOR IOP, IBS, IPS, IEU

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TAGS: PFOR, PARM, NATO, UN, UR, US, VN, MG, PL, EI
SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF SOVIET PRESS - DEC 15

1. U.S. COVERAGE IS LIGHT, AS IS MOST OTHER INTERNATIONAL
NEWS.

--ALL CENTRAL NEWSPAPERS CARRY A TASS WASHINGTON

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ITEM REPORTING THE MEETING OF THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE TO

CONFIRM THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION RESULTS. THE ITEM ADDS THAT 54 PERCENT OF ELIGIBLE VOTERS VOTED, THE LOWEST TURNOUT SINCE 1948.

--LITGAZ REPRINTS AN ARTICLE BY NYT CORRESPONDENT DAVID SHIPLER ON THE BENEFITS TO THE U.S. OF THE SOVIET-U.S. EXCHANGE PROGRAM ON HEALTH AND MEDICINE.

--KZ CARRIES A TASS WASHINGTON ITEM REPORTING THAT JAMES EARL RAY'S APPEAL FOR A NEW TRIAL HAD BEEN TURNED DOWN BY THE SUPREME COURT.

--PRAVDA CARRIES A TASS WASHINGTON ITEM ON ISRAELI DEFENSE MINISTER PERES' REPORTED REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL U.S. MILITARY AID, INCLUDING SYSTEMS WHICH U.S. AND NATO FORCES DO NOT YET HAVE.

--LITGAZ CARRIES AN ATTACK ON DEPUTY DEFENSE SECRETARY ELLSWORTH'S REPORTED STATEMENT THAT THE SOVIET UNION IS PREPARING FOR WAR TO CONTROL PETROLEUM AND INSURE FUTURE DELIVERIES IN COMPETITION WITH THE WEST AND JAPAN. THE ARTICLE TURNS THE ALLEGATION AROUND, SAYING THAT THE SOVIETS HAVE THEIR OWN OIL, BUT NATO WANTS TO BUILD UP TO INSURE ITS SUPPLIES.

2. IN OTHER COVERAGE, THE CENTRAL PRESS IS DOMINATED BY THREE ITEMS:

--MONGOLIAN STATE AND PARTY CHIEF TSEDENBAL CAME TO MOSCOW ON DEC 14 TO AWARD BREZHNEV A "GOLD STAR" AS A "HERO OF THE MONGOLIAN PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC", AND THE ORDER OF SUKHE BATOR, IN CONNECTION WITH BREZHNEV'S 70TH BIRTHDAY ON DEC. 19.

--PRAVDA AND IZVESTIYA CARRY LONG EXCERPTS OF VIETNAMESE PARTY CHIEF LE DUAN'S SPEECH TO THE FOURTH CONGRESS OF THE VIETNAMESE WORKERS PARTY NOW MEETING IN HANOI. ALTHOUGH FOREIGN AFFAIRS TAKE A MINOR POSITION IN THE SPEECH, THE U.S. IS BLASTED SHARPLY AND OFTEN, THE SOVIETS ARE THANKED FOR THEIR AID, AND CHINA IS ALSO EXPLICITLY THANKED--AFTER THE USSR, AS USUAL IN VIETNAMESE FORMULATIONS. PRAVDA FRONT-PAGES THE CPSU CC MESSAGE TO THE VIETNAMESE ON THE OCCASION OF THE PARTY CONGRESS.

--THE PRESS ALSO FEATURES KOSYGIN'S VISIT TO POLAND AND THE SPEECHES HE AND GIEREK GAVE IN KATO-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WICE. ECONOMIC TOPICS PREVAIL, TOGETHER WITH NUMEROUS AFFIRMATIONS OF MUTUAL FRIENDSHIP AND SUPPORT.

--ALL CENTRAL PRESS ANNOUNCE APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY FONMIN AND FORMER AMBASSADOR TO JAPAN, OLEG ALEKSANDROVICH TROYANOVSKIY, AS NEW SOVIET UN REP; THE PRESS ALSO REPORTS THAT JAKOB MALIK HAS LEFT THAT POST.

--PRAVDA'S COMMENTATOR'S COLUMN, BY VLADIMIR

PERESADA, SAYS THAT RECENT PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION VICTORY OF ALGERIA'S BOUMEDIENNE IS DEMONSTRATION THAT ALGERIA MAKING PROGRESS IN CONSTRUCTION OF NEW STATE INSTITUTIONS AND THAT IN 14 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE ALGERIAN PEOPLE CONTINUE TO MAKE PROGRESSIVE ADVANCES DESPITE OPPOSITION OF CONSERVATIVE CIRCLES.

--IZVESTIYA REPORTS, WITH A PHOTO AND BIO SKETCH, THE DEC 14 ARRIVAL OF IRISH FOREIGN MINISTER FITZGERALD.

--PRAVDA REPORTS THAT POLITBURO CANDIDATE MEMBER AND CP SECRETARY PONOMAREV AND DEPUTY CHIEF OF THE CC INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS SECTION UL'YANOVSKIY RECEIVED VISITING SOMALI POLITBURO MEMBER, FIRST VICE PRESIDENT AND DEFENSE MINISTER MOHAMED ALI SAMANTAR. THE TALKS REPORTEDLY TOOK PLACE IN A "WARM, COMRADELY ATMOSPHERE."

--LITGAZ CARRIES A STINGING ATTACK ON BRITISH AIR VICE MARSHAL STEWART MENOL FOR ALLEGEDLY ADVOCATING THAT NATO DEVELOP MINIATURE NUCLEAR WEAPONS. THE ARTICLE DRAWS ON FORMER SECDEF SCHLESINGERS' REPORTED ADVOCACY OF TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS, AND GOES ON TO ATTACK NATO AMBASSADOR STRAUSS-HUPE'S ALLEGED REPORT TO THE ALLIES ON NEW WEAPONS. A COMPANION PIECE IN LITGAZ RIDICULES THE CHARGE IN SOME WESTERN NEWSPAPERS THAT THE RECENT SOVIET NUCLEAR TEST IN SIBERIA SOMEHOW HELPED TO CAUSE THE HUGE EARTHQUAKE IN TURKEY. MATLOCK

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